

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04736 250948Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111227 251515Z /46

R 250926Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6224
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 4736

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, SA, XF
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: AMMAN 4505

1. I HAD CHANCE ON MAY 25 TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY WITH ROYAL COURT
CHIEF SHARAF KING HUSSEIN'S MAY 20-22 VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. SHARAF SAID KING'S VISIT WENT EXTREMELY WELL. KING HUSSEIN
HAD TIME FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH CROWN PRINCE
FAHD, AND SHARAF ADDED, "THERE IS NOTHING LIKE FACE-TO-FACE
DISCUSSIONS."

3. SHARAF SAID SAUDIS HAD CONFIRMED JORDANIAN SUSPICIONS
(REFTEL) THAT THERE WAS "A GAP" IN EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT

MUBARAK'S UNDERSTANDING REGARDING SAUDI BACKING FOR
EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL THAT GAZA BE RETURNED TO EGYPT AND
WEST BANK TO JORDAN AS INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS AFTER ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL. SHARAF SAID MUBARAK HAD POSED QUESTION TO THE SAUDIS:
TO THE EFFECT, WOULD YOU AGREE TO TURNING OVER INTERIM CONTROL

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OF GAZA TO EGYPT AND OF WEST BANK TO JORDAN IN ORDER TO
SECURE AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THOSE TERRITORIES? PHRASED
IN SUCH HYPOTHETICAL TERMS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY
ARAB NOT TO AGREE, SHARAF SAID, BUT HE INTIMATED THAT SAUDIS
AGREED WITH JORDAN THAT THIS FORMULATION BEGS THE
QUESTION IN CURRENT MIDEAST OPERATIONAL CONTEXT BECAUSE
ISRAEL IS REFUSING TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA.

NET EFFECT OF SHARAF'S REMARKS WAS THAT HE SAW NO EVIDENCE
OF ANY CHANGE IN TRADITIONAL SAUDI POSITION AS A RESULT OF
MUBARAK VISIT.

4. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION REGARDING FINANCIAL QUESTIONS
JORDAN WAS PLANNING TO DISCUSS, SHARAF SAID JORDANIANS LEFT
"BOME DOCUMENTS" OUTLINING JORDANIAN FINANCIAL NEEDS WHICH
SAUDIS AGREED TO STUDY.
SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

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